

A
DESCRIPTION
OF THE
Seaventeen PROVINCES
Commonly called
The Low-Countries,
(*The Present stage of Action*)
AS ALSO OF
The Rivers, Cities, Com-
modities, Strong Towns,
Forts, and other things re-
markable therein.

By SAMUEL CLARKE

L O N D O N,
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THE *Low-Countries* are seated very commodiously for all the Provinces of *Europe*. For Northward it is but 5 or 6 dayes journey by Sea from *Denmark*. Southward it confineth with *France*, and *Lorrain*. Eastward with *Almain*, or *Germany*. Westward with *England*, and *Scotland*. It's also commodious for *Norway*, and *Sweden*: for a Ship went from *Holland* to *Norway* in 46 houres. From *Lisbon* its scarce 10 dayes Voyage.

The circuit of the Country is
B about

about a Thousand *Italian* Miles, or 34 *Flemish* Leagues. In that part of the *Low-Countries* that formerly belonged to the King of *Spain*, are contained 208 walled Towns: An hundred and fifty Towns priviledged as walled Towns: Six thousand three hundred Villages with Parish Churches, besides a great number of other Villages, and Hamlets.

The Beeves of *Frisland* and *Holland*, are very great, and weigh some of them sixteen hundred pounds. Yea, one there was presented to the Earl of *Hockstrait* which weighed two thousand five hundred twenty eight pounds of the Country weight.

The Ewes in *Holland*, *Frisland*, and part of *Flanders* bring forth 3 or 4 Lambs at a time, and the Kine often two Calves. The Country brings forth much Mather, where-with a great part of *Europe* is furnished? Wood, and Hemp, and Flax in great abundance.

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Five principal Rivers are in these Countries : The *Rhine*, the *Meuse*, the *Scheld*, *Haa*, and *Emms*, besides divers smaller. The *Muse* affords abundance of Sturgeons, so big, that some of them weigh 400, and some 420 pounds, and are 12 Foot long of *Antwerp* measure.

The *Muse* yeildeth also great store of Salmons, and Salmon Trouts, Lampraves, Shads, Congers, Mulletts, and divers other sorts of Fishes, which coming into fresh Water, become fat, and excellent good.

The *Scheld*, by reason of the vicinity it hath with the mouth of the *Meuse*, hath divers sorts of Fishes that come out of the Sea, as Sturgeons, Salmons, Salmon Trouts, Lampraves, Turbots, Congers, Shads, Mulletts, Soles, &c. besides which, such an infinite number of fric come out of the Sea, and are taken in this River, that multitudes of People are relieved therewith.

(4)

Besides these Rivers, divers Channels are cut out, and made navigable by mans hand, the principal whereof are at *Bruxells, Gant, Bruges,* and *Middlebourg*. The Country hath not many Fountains of running water, save in the mountainous part: But Lakes, Pools, and Marshes many, which both fortify the Country, and furnish it with Fish.

The Sea ariseth at *Calais* in *Flan-*
ders, in *Zealand,* and *Holland* 18 Foot:
but where its pressed into a Straight,
as at *Bristow*, it rises 66 Foot: At
St Malo, and *Mount St. Michael* in
Normandy 80 Foot. The depth of the
Sea between *Calais* and *Dover* is 24
Fathom (every fathom 6 foot) Be-
tween *England* and *Ireland* 23. Be-
tween *Wight,* and *Normandy* 28. Near
to *Sylly* 60: and so the nearer the
Main the deeper.

Herrings come out of the Nor-
thern Seas in incredible multitudes
into our Seas in *August*, *September,*
and

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and mid *November*: But the best are taken from mid-*September*, 'till the end of *October*. The sooner the cold begins, the sooner they come, and in the greater number. They once compass our Isle of *Great Britain*, and so pass into the Northern Ocean. Their course is hard by the Shore, and they swim gazing where they see any Light, Fire, or humane Creatures.

They have Kings among them, as Bees have, marked on the Head like a Crown, and are somewhat ruddy, especially upon the Head. The Kings goe before them, and they are followed with an infinite number, which in the Night afar off seem like Lightning, by reason that their eyes are bright like fire. They feed upon water only, and dye as soon as they are taken out.

Many Cods are taken in the same Months with the Herrings, and some of them are above 50 pound weight.

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Of these two kinds of Fishes they yearly make vast summs. Salmones are taken at all times of the year in *Holland*, and *Zealand*. These 3 kinds of Fish, yeild yearly to them (the Salt deducted) six hundred thousand pound Sterling.

They have divers Forrests, and Woods; well stored with Red and Fallow Deer, Goats, Wild Boars, Hares, Conies, Badgers, Wolves, Foxes, &c. whch yeild good Furs.

The Fowl in this Country are Partridge, Feasants, Turtle Doves, Quails, Black-birds, and in brieft, all kinds of Fowl, and Birds that be in *England*, both Water, and Land Fowl, especially water Fowl in *Holland*.

The People are valiant, and very skilful Seamen: their Hoyes are excellent good to brook the Seas, by reason whereof they dispatch their Voyages sooner than other Nations. They are good Linguists, and very skilful in Merchandise. They excel
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in making Woollen cloth, Tapestry, Fustians, Silks, Velvets, &c. They invented the Art of Painting, and the making of Woollen, and Linnen Cloth, and of Dying.

The Women govern all, both within doors, and without, and make all bargains, which makes them too too injurious and troublesom. The eldest Daughter is of the greatest reputation, yet hath no larger a Portion than the rest. They marry Noble with ignoble, young with old, Master and Servant, into strange Towns, and Forrain Countries.

There are 17 Provinces, *Brabant, Lemburg, Luxenburg, Guilders*, which are Dutchies; *Flanders, Artois, Hennault, Holland, Zealand, Namur*, and *Zutphen*, which are Earldoms; The *Marquisat* of the sacred Empire, *Frisland, Malines, Utrecht, Over-Issel*, and *Groningham*, which are Seniories. *Lothier* is a bare Title, for the Land remaineth in *Lorraine*.

The Province of Brabant described.

Brabant is bounded on the North with the *Meuse*, which severeth it from *Guilderland*, and *Holland*: South with *Haynalt*, *Namurs*, and *Lieg*: East with the *Meuse*, which severs it from another part of *Guelderland*: West, with the *Scheld*, which severs it from *Flanders*, and the Principality of *Alost*. The air is good, and most of the Soil fruitful. The length of it from South to North, from *Gemblours* to *St. Gertrudens* is 22 Leagues; The breadth from East to West, from *Helmont* to *Berghes* is 20 Leagues. The circuit eighty.

The principal Rivers of *Brabant* are the *Meuse*, and the *Scheld*. Towns walled are 26, whereof *Lovain*, *Bruxells*, *Antwerp*, and *Bosleduc* are the chiefe. *Tilmond*, *Leewe*, and *Neville* are but small. The rest are *Arskot*, *Bergh*, *Meghen*, *Breda*, *Diest*, *Maastricht*, *Steenberg*, *Lire*, *Vilvorden*, *Gemblours*, *Jondaign*, *Hannut*, *Lamden*

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1426. In it
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den, Halem, Sichenen, Herentalis, Eindhoven, Helmont, and Grave.

Smaller Towns unwall'd, yet Market Towns, fair built, and enjoying the Priviledges of Market Towns, are eighteen. Villages with Parish Churches are seven Hundred.

The City of Lovain described.

Lovain stands by the River of *Dele*: The air is so temperate that Vines prosper both within, and without the Town. Its 4 miles compass within the Walls, and six without. The buildings are beautiful: the Temples, Monasteries, the Church of *St. Peter*, and the Publick Pallace, are sumptuously built. Its of a round Figure, and hath many goodly Gardens, Vallies, Mountains, Meadows, and Springs within it. The University was founded *Anno Christi* 1426. In it are about 20 Colledges, the principal whereof are *Lilium, Castrum, Porcus, Falco, and Trilingue.*
It

It hath many lesser Towns under the Jurisdiction of it.

The City of Bruxells Described.

Bruxells stands upon the little River *Sinne*: Its of the same bigness with *Lovain*. It hath 2 Walls about it, between which, towards the East, the Court is resident. It's excellently seated for all kind of Commodities, both for Pleasure, and Profit. There is a goodly Channel made by Art from *Bruxells* into the River of *Dele*, and thence into the *Scheld*. There are also 5 notable Sluses for the back Water. In it there are 7 Gates, 7 Churches, 7 Noble Houses: And the buildings in general are very sumptuous. Here is made great store of Armor, and excellent Arras, both of Silk, Gold, and Silver. There are in it 52 Occupations, divided into 9 Members, called the 9 Nations. It hath under

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Bolduc described.

Bolduc stands upon the River of *Deese*, but 2 Leagues from the *Mense*. It's a great Town, strong, well Peopled, rich, and well built. The Cathedral Church is dedicated to *St. John*, which is a goodly one, and hath a very beautiful Dial upon it. It's the fourth principal Town of *Brabant*. Under the Jurisdiction of it are 4 Countries, called the four Members, wherein are contained these Towns, *Helmont*, *Eindovers*, *Meghen*, *Ravestein*, *Grave*, and divers other Villages.

The three small Capitall Towns of *Brabant* are,

Telmont that stands upon the little River *Geet*; but the Town is now decayed.

Leem

Leewe , that stands upon the little Brook *Gheef*: It's strong, being a Frontier against *Lieg*.

Nevelle, It stands in a fruitful soil, and is full of Quarries of excellent Stone.

Besides these, there are in *Bra-
bant*

Arshcot, which stands upon the little River *Demere*, made a Dutchy.

Bergen op Zoom, seated upon a little Hill, by the River *Zoom*, which passes through the Town, and half a League thence falls into the *Scheld*. It's neer to the Seas, and hath a reasonable good Haven, not far from *Antwerp*.

Hoochstrate, not environed with any Wall, Erected into an Earldom by *Charles* the Fifth.

Meghen, stands upon the River of *Meuse*, An ancient Earldom.

Breda, stands upon the River *Merck*: Its a good, and a pleasant Town, and
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in it is a sumptuous Castle , with double Ditches full of Water : It belongs to the Prince of *Orange*.

Diest stands upon the River *Demere* : A good Town, and hath two Colledges of Canons in it.

The City of Mastrick described.

Mastrick is cut through, not in the midst , but on one side by the *Meuse*. There is a goodly Bridg of Stone built over the River. The lesser Part of it makes , as it were , an Angle, which is called by the Name of *Vich* : This part belongs to the Principality of *Liege* : But the chief Body of the Town is under the *Low-Countries*. It's a very fair and strong Town, and hath two Colledges of Canons in it, and in one of them the Duke of *Brabant* is a Canon. The whole compass thereof is about 4 *English* miles. Round about the Walls runs a deep Ditch: The Earth about

about it is loose, and maniable : yet is it not peopled answerable to the compass of the Walls, but a great part of it is void ground, especially towards the Walls, which notwithstanding are well provided with Platforms.

Steenbergh, is now decayed, but was sometime a Town of great power and importance, with a goodly Haven.

Lire stands upon the little River *Nethe*. It's a strong Town, both by Nature and Art.

Vilvorden stands upon the River *Sinne*: The Town is strong, and hath a Castle in it.

Gemblours, hath an Abby in it, and a famous Library.

There are also *Jondoign*, *Hannut*, *Landen*, *Halen*, which stands upon the little River of *Geet*: *Sichenen*, upon the River *Demere*; *Hentalls* upon the River *Nethe*: *Eindoven* upon the Brook *Dommele*. *Helmont* upon

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Ravestien stands
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Town with

upon the River *Ade*: And *Grave*
upon the River *Menze*: all walled
Towns: other Villages are omit-
ted.

Ravestien stands on the left side of
the River of *Maze*. Its a good little
Town, with a Castle in it.

The Province of Lembourg
Described.

Lembourg stands upon the River
of *Wefer* beyond the *Menze*, in
which is found the Stone called *Co-*
peras, which being incorporated
with Brass maketh *Latin*. There is
also much Iron, and some Lead.

Walkenbourg is a reasonable Town,
having a large Territory and Juris-
diction: It's 2 Leagues from *Ma-*
strick.

Dalem is a little Town with a Ca-
stle.

Rode-le-duc is a little ancient
Town with an old Castle.

Carpen

Carpen is a great Village with a Collegiate Church, and a strong Castle neer it.

Malins stands upon the River of *Dele*, which passeth through the Town, and ebbs and flowes a League above it. It is a goodly Strong Town, because it may be drowned almost on all sides. In it are 7 Parish Churches, and a Monastery of about 16 hundred Nuns.

Heyst stands on an Hill, and hath 7 Boroughs at the foot of the Hill, all pertaining to this Village.

Horne is a Castle neer to the *Meuse*, not far from *Ruermond*, and hath a goodly Jurisdiction neer unto the Castle gives Name: And *Wiert* is a Town belonging to it, beautified with a goodly Castle.

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Hatten, *Elburc*
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esburg, *Doeted*
chem, *Grol*,
Stralen, *Venlo*
Erkelens.

Towns unv
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The Province of Guelders described.

Guelders is bounded on the North with *Friesland*, and the *Zuiderzee*: South with the *Menſe* (which divides it from *Brabant*) and with *Guilreland*: East with the *Rhine*, and *Cleavland*: and West with *Holland*, and the Bishoprick of *Virecht*. The Country is flat, having but few Hills, but many pleasant Woods, and ſtore of Corn, and Cattel.

It hath two and twenty walled Towns, whereof the cheif are *Nimague*, *Ruermond*, *Zutphen*, and *Arnhem*. The other walled Towns are, *Hatten*, *Elburch*, *Harderwick*, *Wagheningen*, *Tiel*, *Bomel*, *Bronchorſt*, *Deſburg*, *Doetecum*, *Iſbeerenberg*, *Lochem*, *Grol*, *Bredervoerde*, *Ghelder*, *Stralen*, *Venloo*, *Wachtendonck*, and *Erkelens*.

Towns unwalled, yet priviledged as walled Towns are, *Kepple*, *Burg*,
C *Ghent*,

The

Ghent, Batemburg, Montfort, and Echt.
In it are above three hundred Villages with Parish Churches.

Nimegue stands upon that branch of the *Rhine* that is called *Wbael*, where its larg, and deep. Its a fair Town, strong, rich, and well peopled. It hath a very fair, and ancient Castle, with an excellent Prospect round about.

Ruermond described.

Ruermond stands upon the very point of the River *Ruer*, where it, and the *Maze* meet. Its a beautiful, strong, and well-peopled City: The country about it is very fruitful. Under the jurisdiction of it are these Towns; *Venloo*, a strong Town, *Guelder, Stralen, Watchtendonck*, and *Erkelens*, which are all Walled Towns; *Montfort, Echt*, and *Niewerstat*, Burroughs built like Towns; as also *Kessel, Midler*, and *Criekenbeeck*.

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A League from *Ruermond* is the fair Village *Kessel*, with a strong Castle in it.

Zutphen described.

Zutphen is situate upon that branch of the *Rhine* that is called *Iffel*, and the River *Berkel* runs through it, which there empties it self into *Iffel*: Its well built. Its the third principal Town in *Guelderland*. Under its jurisdiction are *Doesbourg*, *Doeterum*, *Lochem*, *Grol*, *Bredervoerd*, and *Bronk-hurst*, all walled Towns. *Zutphen* hath a great Fort on the side opposite to the River, and two lesser ones for the better defence of it.

The City of Arnem described.

Arnem stands upon the *Rhine*. Its a well built Town, fair, and larg. Its chiefe Town of *Guelders*, and the *Veluwe*, which is but a little Country,

Country, but exceeding fruitfull, especially abounding with Fish, being compassed about with *Zuiderzee*, *Rhine*, and *Iffel*. It abounds also with all kinds of Venison. Under its jurisdiction are *Wagheninghen*: *Hattem* which is a strong town; *Hardwick*, and *Elbourg*, all walled Towns, with divers Villages.

Other walled Towns are these. *Hattem* which stands upon *Iffel*, a great, and strong Town. *Elbourg* which stands upon *Zuiderzee*. *Hurderwick*, which also stands upon *Zuiderzee*: *Wagheninghen*, which stands upon the *Rhine*: *Tiel*, which is a strong Town, and stands upon *Whaal*: *Bomel*, which also stands upon *Whaal*, and is a fair, and strong place: *Bronchorst* which stands upon *Iffel*; *Doesbourgh*, which stands at the entry of *Fossa Brusiana* into the River *Iffel*, a good Town and well peopled: *Doetecum*, which stands upon the old *Iffel*: *Tserenberg*, a good

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good Town: *Locchem* which stands upon *Berkel: Groel, &c.*

Verloo stands upon the *Menze*, Its a good, and a strong Town: *Wachtendonk* stands upon the River *Niers*: *Erkelens* is a reasonable good Town. All these are walled, and stand in *Guelderland*. Towns unwalled are, *Keppel*, and *Bourk*, both which stand upon the old *Iffel*: *Ghend*, which is neer to the *Whaal*: *Battenbourg* which stands upon the *Menze*: *Montfort*, a very strong Castle: *Echt*, neer to the pleasant Wood *Echterwalt*: *Culembourg*, a good Town standing upon the *Leck*: *Buren* is in the midst of *Guelderland*, hath a strong Castle in it, and under the jurisdiction of it, a great Country, and many Villages; It stands neer to the River *Lingh*.

The Province of Overissel
described.

Overissel is bounded on the North with *West-Frise*, and *Groninghen*: South with the Country of *Zutphen*; East with *Westphalia*; and West with the *Zuiderzee*, and the River *Issel*. The Country is very plain, and without Hills; very fruitful, and abounding with Grain. The River *Vidre*, or *Vecht*, runs through it. It hath eight walled Towns, namely, *Deventer*, *Swol*, *Cumpen*, *Vallenhove*, *Steenwick*, *Hasselt*, *Oetmarse*; and *Oldezeel*. Other Towns of importance, though unwalled, are, *Mep- pel*, *Theelmuyden*, *Coevorden*, *Hardem- berg*, *Omme*, *Almeloe*, *Goer*, *Diepnehem*, *Delden*, and *Enschede*. There are in it about a hundred Villages.

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Deventer described.

Deventer stands upon the River *Issel*: Its a *very* strong, and well fortified place, larg, fair, well built, and well peopled. Its the *Metropolitane* of the whole Country.

Swol described.

Swol stands upon a little River that runneth into the *Vidre*. Its a very strong Town, fortified with a double Ditch, and strong Ram-pers.

Cumpen described.

Cumpen stands at the entrance of *Issel* into *Zuiderzee*, and is comprehended in the Country of *Overissel*: Its a very fair, and a larg Town.

Vallenhove described.

Vallenhove stands upon the *Zuiderzee*: Its a good Town, and served very well with all sorts of *Vi-ctuals*. The other Towns and Villages are not worth naming, save only *Ghelnuyden*, which stands upon the very mouth of the *Vidre*, and hath a strong Castle in it.

The Province of Frise-land described.

The River *Embs* divides *East-Friesland*, which belongs to Upper *Germany*, from *West-Friesland*, which appertaineth to the *Lower*: And as it grows nearer to the Sea, so it enlargeth it self, that the Mouth thereof makes a Gulph. Here is the City of *Embden* seated, one of the most considerable Towns of all the Maritime Parts, by reason of the frequency

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cy of People, and opportunity of Commerce, which is much holpen by the Haven thereof, being held to be one of the most commodious in all the North.

The *Flemish-Friesland* maketh two Provinces. That which joyns upon *Germany* is called *Groninghen*, from the City of the same Name. A City very well Peopled, and suspiciously seated, being the chiefeft Key of those Confines. It is seated very low, as is its sister Province, which retains the Name of *Friesland*. In Winter the Fields stand full of Water, and there is no coming to their Habitations but by their Banks. In Summer the Land lyes dry, and yeilds great store of Pasturage. You would say, that in those parts, the Sea is interchangably turned into the Land, and the Land into the Sea. By reason of the low Situation, and great humidity there are no Woods in the Country, nor almost any

any sort of Trees that may serve for firing: But where Nature is therein wanting, the Inhabitants make it good by their Industry. For they make use of Turfs cut out of the Earth and dried in the Sun, instead of Wood: These are the Woods of *Friesland*, and the usual fire of the Inhabitants. In divers other parts of *Flanders* they suffer the same wants, and with the same industry provide against them.

Frise anciently was a Kingdome, and reached from the Mouth of the *Rhine* into *Denmark*: but that which we here describe is *West-Friesland*: The other towards the River *Visurgis*, is called *East-Frise*.

West-Frise hath North and West the *Ocean Sea*: South, *Zuiderzee*, and the Country of *Overijssel*: East it hath *East-Friseland*. Under its Signiory are many Isles adjoining unto it, the principal whereof are *Schellnick*, and *Ameland*, in which are divers Villages. There

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There are no Rivers in this Country save only *Ems*, and *Launwers*, but *Iffel*, and *Vidre* are neer to it: There are very many great Channels throughout the Country, made as well for transportation, as for draining of the waters, which otherwise would overflow all. For its a Marshy Country, flat, and full of Waters: the River *Ems* severs it from *VWestphalia*. They have small store of Grain, but numbers of Cattel, and Turfe is their fewel: but the poorer People burn Cow-dung dried in the Sun. Many of their Kine bring two Calves a piece, and their Ewes two or three Lambs, yea, sometimes four at a fall. They have also store of good Horses.

This Country is divided into three principal Counties: The County of *Ostergoe*, the County of *VWestergoe*, and the County of the seven *Forrests*. All of them contain Walled Towns, and others enjoying the like

like priviledges, being Rampered with Trenches and Ditches, eleven namely, *Leewarden*, *Doccum*, *Franiker*, *Bolswaerd*, *Sneck*, *Ilst*, *Slotem*, *Harlinghen* with a Castle, *VVorkum*, *Hindelopen*, and *Straveren*. There are in it four hundred and ninety Villages.

Leewarden described.

Leewarden is feated two Leagues from *Doccum*: Its a good, and a great Town, having a strong Castle in it. *Franiker* is a good Town, and a University: Of the rest there is nothing remarkable.

The Isle of Schellinck described.

In this Island are some Villages abounding with excellent good Pastures, great plenty of Cattel, and very good Fish, especially Dog-fish, which are taken in this strange manner.

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The Province of Groeninghen described with the City.

Its a very great, rich, and well-built City, under the Diocess of the Bishop of *Munster*. It hath a great and larg Jurisdiction; and through
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the City passe divers Rivers, in divers Channels, some made by Art, and some by Nature, which make the Town very strong.

Groninghen lyes upon the utmost bounds of that confine which joyns together the upper and the lower *Germany*. There is not in that part of the Low Countries a more Noble City than this, either for the number of Inhabitants, for the quallity of the Buildings, or for the frequency of Commerce. It forms the Body of a Province which lyes about this City, and which takes the Name, and almost the whole Government from thence. Its seated low, well provided of a Wall, and Ditch. It hath some works within the Circuit thereof of the Modern fashion; and the rest, for the most part, are of the ancient. It enjoyes very large Priviledges.

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The Province of

Holland is hollow Land, the foundation of it is so that if you go will tremble under North and South with the East with the Zeland. Through of the Rhine, number of Channels almost between moment.

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The Province of Holland described.

Holland is as much to say, a *hollow Land*, because the very foundation of it stands upon the *Water*; so that if you go, or ride, the ground will tremble under you. Its bounded North and West with the *Sea*: South with the *Meuse*, and *Brabant*: East with the *Zuiderzee*, and *Guelderland*. Through it run many armes of the *Rhine*, and *Meuse*, besides a number of Channels made by Art, almost between every Village of moment.

It hath in it a number of Islands made by the *Sea*, the *Rhine*, and the *Meuse*, of divers Names, yet all comprehended under the name of *Holland*. The ground is so low that they are fain to Fence it, with *Dikes*, and *Rampers*, as well against the *Sea*, as against almost all the *Rivers* and *Channels* into which the *Sea*

Sea Ebbs and Flows; so that in many places you shall see the Sea above the Land, yet kept back by these Banks.

This Country hath few Trees in it, because the ground is so spungy, that it is not able to bear the weight of a Tree; and yet lesse quantity of Fruit and Grain grows in it for the same reason. Yet have they such plenty of Grain from the *Easterlings*, and *Denmark*, as is not only sufficient for their own use, but liberally to impart to other Countries. And they have such plenty of *Rhenish* Wine from *Germany* that they spend more than in the Country where it grows. Flax they have none growing, and yet make more Linnen Cloth than any Country in the World. Wool also they have none of their own, and yet make an infinite number of Cloths. They have no Timber, and yet spend more in building of Ships, and Fencing

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Their principal home-commodities consists in breeding of Horses, the Kine in their fat Pastures, and Meddows, and Turfe, whereof they sell an infinite quantity to other Countries. The Butter and Cheese made in a year in *Holland* amounts to above a Million of Crowns. But their greatest commodity comes by Fishing, and Navigation.

Holland and Zealand described more fully.

Both these Provinces lye on the North and West side of *Flanders*. In *Holland*, the *Rhine*, and the *Mense*; and in *Zealand*, the *Scheld*, fall into the Sea, in such larg Channels, as losing the condition of Rivers, they seem to carry new Seas into the Sea. On the contrary, the Ocean first washing the said two Provinces

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for a long tract of ground, and turning then (as it were) from a Sea to a River, it penetrates into each of them by divers Channels, and hides it self there in sundry *Gulphs*. From hence, joyning with the Rivers, and together with them cutting *Zealand* thorough in many places, it makes thereof many Islands, and reduces *Holland* into a *Peninsula*. And together with these three aforenamed Rivers, which are the chiefest of all *Flanders*, there are in *Holland* divers other lesser ones: And, as if Art would contend with Nature, there are added thereunto an infinite number of Channels cut out by mans hand, which are made for the greater accommodation of the Country.

There are within *Holland* also a great number of Lakes, and standing waters; so as the situation of both these Provinces being well considered, it is to be questioned whether

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ther the space of ground be greater which by the water is won from the Earth, or from the Water by the Earth. Nor is it less disputable, whether their Country do more abound with, or be more wanting of those commodities which men enjoy in other places. For through the condition of their situation they want both Corn, Wine, Oyle, Wool, Wood, Hemp, Flax, and almost all other commodities and delights which are used in more temperate and dry Climates: And yet again, there is: o Country, not only in the Northern nook, even not in any part of *Europe*, which abounds so much as *Holland* and *Zealand* in almost all the forenamed commodities, yea, even of those which are less necessary for the maintenance of humane life: So great is the advantage which these two Provinces receive by the Sea, and Rivers, whereby their commerce with all

other Countries is made so easie, which since they have introduced, and made so familiar in both the *Indies*, it cannot be said how much both Merchandizes, and Merchants are increased in both of them.

Hence it is that they abound so much with People, and that their Cities, Towns, and Villages are so well inhabited. Yet the Sea likewise is as full of Ships, and other Bottoms, and all their watry places with other sorts of Boats, which all of them serve for habitations, especially to Mariners, and Fishers. Great is the number of People that apply themselves to these two Vocations in *Holland*, and in *Zealand*. They make houses of their Ships, and of their Houses Schools: Here they are born: Here they are bred up: and here they learn their Professions. And the Marriners especially, who practising their Callings, in ranning so oft, and so boldly from
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the one Pole to the other, and wheresoever the Sun communicates it self to Mortals, grow so expert therein, as though they may be equalled, yet they cannot be out-done in this Seafairing Myſtery, by any Nation whatſoever. In briefe, theſe People are generally given to Traffique, and are extraordinary induſtrious in Manual, and Mechanical Arts.

Their greateſt delight lyes in their meat, and in their Feaſts, by which they temper the melancholly of their tedious Winters, which are rather long than ſharp, the Country abounding much more in Rain than in Froſts. They are generally well ſhaped in Body; and as candid in nature as in countenance: Pleaſant in their leaſure times; but fierce in their Warrs, and much better in fighting at Sea than by Land: they feed moſt upon Fiſh, and are Whit-meats, wherein their Country doth

infinitely abound. They have alwayes been inclined to a free Government, and have ever tenaciously held their ancient Customs.

Holland is full of Great Cities, good Towns, and infinite in Villages. But by reason of the frequency of Forreigners, and multitudes of Natives, *Amsterdam* hath alwayes been the chiefest City of this Province. Even whilst commerce flourished in *Antwerp*, great was the concourse of Forreigners to *Amsterdam*: But Commerce failing in that City, by reason of the Warrs with *Spain*, it is so mightily encreased in this other, as *Amsterdam* is at this houre the place of greatest Merchandizing, not only in *Holland*, but in all the North. In *Zealand* *Middelbourg* is the Town best peopled, and of greatest Traffick; yet cannot that Province come any thing neer *Holland*, neither in circuit, people, nor plenty. Its almost impossible to
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enter either of these Provinces by force: Because not only the chief places but even the commonest Towns are environed, either by the Sea, Rivers, Lakes, or by Earth, than which there can be none more low, nor more miery: So as it is no wonder if these People, being thus favoured by Nature, were both so fierce in taking up Arms against *Spain* at first, and with the like animosity maintained them till they had procured their own peace. *Bentivog: Hist: of Fland: Pag. 73.*

Zealand. Where the *Scheld* falls from the more inward parts of the Land, gliding for a good space along the Confines of *Brabant* and *Flanders*, it comes at once out of both those Provinces; and at the coming out, divides it self into two large Branches: the one bends towards the North, and retains the name of *Scheld*; the other runs towards the West, and is called *Honte*. Here, both

of them growing greater, as they draw neerer the Ocean, before they fall thereinto, they joyn together in divers spacious *Gulphs*; among which the Islands of *Zealand* are rather buried than raised up; so low are they seated, and so oft doth the Sea do mischief there. This low situation is notwithstanding endeavoured to be remedied by the Inhabitants with exceeding high, and firm Banks. But this remedie doth not alwayes give them security, of which the Island of *Zuitbevolant* hath had sad experience, it having in former time been one of the greatest, and best peopled of all the *Zealand* Islands. In the year 1532, the Sea arose with one of the most terrible Tempests that was ever seen in those Parts, and rending the Banks asunder, and bearing down whatsoever withstood it, it overflowed from the one side to the other, and did actually drown a great part of
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the Island, to the utter and most horrible destruction both of man and Beast, and a great number of intire Villages, which were miserably swallowed up by that Deluge. This fell out on that side that lies neereſt to *Brabant* and *Flanders*; this being the first Island that the *Scheld*, in forming its abovesaid Branches, cuts off, and divides from the Continent: Yet that Angle which lyes neereſt to the firm land, remained still unprejudiced, and is yet inhabited.

On the West, this Island looks towards *Flanders*: on the North towards *Brabant*: and in it stands *Ter-goes*, a small Town, better fortified by Nature than by Art, being fenced on the one side by the *Scheld*, upon whose Banks it is situated: It is environed on an other part with certain Marish Grounds: and its fortified by Art on the weakest side, which lies towards the firm land.

Holland

Holland is not above 60 Leagues in circuit, and where its broadest a man may ride over it in 6 hours; yet are there in it nine and twenty Walled Towns : namely , *Dordrecht* , *Harlem* , *Delft* , *Leyden* , *Goud* , *Amsterdam* , *Einhusen* , *Horn* , *Alkmur* , *Purmerenden* , *Eadam* , *Monichedam* , *Wesp* , *Naerden* , *Woerden* , *Oudewater* , *Schoonhoven* , *Helstien* , *Vianen* , *Leerdam* , *Asperen* , *Hueckelem* , *Gorichom* , *Workum* , *Huesden* , *Rotterdam* , *Schiedam* , *St Gertrudenberg* , and *Sevenbergen* .

Besides these there are divers little Towns, which have been Walled , and enjoy the Priviledges of Walled Towns : namely, *Medemblick* , *Beverwick* , *Muiden* , *Newport* , *Vlaerdingen* , and *Gravifand* .

There are besides above four hundred Villages , some of which are large , and have great immunities.

Holland hath also under it divers Isles : the chief are *Vielandt* , *Texele* ,
Weringham ,

Weringham , *Drak*
in are some Villages
Goerode , *Sommer*
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Dordrecht

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*Weringham, Urak, and Ens, where-
in are some Villages : as also Voorn,
Goerode, Sommersäike, Corendike, and
Pierskille.*

Dordrecht described.

Dordrecht stands upon the *Me-
rune*, which River is compounded
of the *Rhine*, the *Meuse*, and the
Ling. Its a great, Rich, mighty, and
well-peopled Town.

The City of Harlem Described.

Harlem lyes in a large Plain, divi-
ded every where into lovely Med-
dows; the ground in *Holland* being
usually fitter for Pasture than for
Tillage. On the one side it hath a
Wood nigh at hand, which is but ve-
ry little, and serves rather for plea-
sure than for fireing. On the other
side the River *Sparen* runs within
the Walls, which, washing the Walls
on

on the outside, with an other Branch, that presently joyns with the former, makes of that part of the City, an Iland. Towards the South this River communicates with a great Lake called, *Harlem Meer*; and towards the West, with a larg Gulph, called *Tie*, which, entring into other greater Gulphs, falls not into, but is rather enclosed by the Ocean. The City is provided of a good Ditch, and good Walls, not flanked according to the Modern fashion, but with great Towers, after the ancient Mode. The circuit of the Walls is great, and the City is very well peopled; and to the number of the Inhabitants, as well in private as in publick, doth the condition of the Buildings answer. Neer this City, almost at an equall distance, within half a dayes journey, lye two of the chieft Towns in *Holland*, *Amsterdam* on the East, and *Leyden* on the South.

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Its a Town very beautified with both within and cially with a mo and environed Villages, and For in a most whole test Town in Printing was first perfected at M attribute the in place.

Delft

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Its a Town very well built, and beautified with goodly Meddows both within and without, but especially with a most pleasant Forrest, and environed with many goodly Villages, and Fortresses, and is seated in a most wholsom air. Its the greatest Town in all *Holland*. Here Printing was first invented, and after perfected at *Mentz*, whence some attribute the invention of it to that place.

Delfe Described.

Its a goodly larg Town well built throughout with broad and pleasant Streets, and beautified with sumptuous and stately Churches. It lyes upon a River which joyns upon the *Mause*.

Leyden

Leyden Described.

Its one of the six Capitall Towns of *Holland*, and chiefe of *Rhineland*. It hath under it nine and forty Burroughs, and Villages. It abounds with all sorts of Provisions, and with Sea-fish, and fresh-water fish, and of water Foul. Its strengthened with an ancient Castle.

Leyden is situate in a flat and low Country, full of Ditches, and Channels, and is beautified with pleasant Meddows, Gardens, Arbors, and Walks round about it; within it are inclosed one and thirty Islands, from one of which to the other men go in Boats: And over and above these there are nine or ten other Islands, from the one of which to the other, Bridges are built to pass over, so that in that Town are one hundred forty five Bridges, whereof one hundred and four are of Stone, the

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the rest of Wood. In this Town are yearly made above twelve thousand Gloaths. The Town is well peopled; Her streets are large: Her Buildings well polished: Its well flanked round about: Her Ditches are every where deep, and in fine, she is a very compleat City. The Women are very fair, and the air wholsom.

Goud Described.

Goud is also one of the six Capital Towns of *Holland*. It stands upon the River *Issel*, not that *Issel* before mentioned, but another different from that. For this *Issel* ariseth at *Isselstein* in *Holland*, and passing by *Montfort*, *Oudewater*, and *Goud*: at *Isselmond* it entreth into the *Leek*, holding his course from his rising to his fall between the old *Rhine* that cometh from *Utrecht*, and the said River of *Leek*; and being, as it were

were hemm'd in between these two Rivers, it's a strong, rich, and well fortified Town.

Amsterdam described.

Amsterdam standeth upon the *Goulph Tie*. Its one of the goodliest Havens in the World; for you have sometimes at once five hundred sail of Ships riding in the Port. The Town is so rich, that though a fleet of three hundred Sail, laden with all kind of Merchandize arrive there, the Citizens within five or six Dayes will buy up all their Wares. In this Town are built yearly many Ships, and above twelve thousand Cloths made.

Amsterdam is built upon Piles under the ground, as *Venice* is, so that the buildings of these Towns are more chargeable under the ground than above, though the Houses are very sumptuous, and fair.
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This Town is very strong, and held to be impregnable, by reason that it may be invironed at pleasure with Water, and is almost in all points like unto *Venice*, and little inferior to it in any thing. For its the greatest Town in all these parts of the World.

Einchuyfin Described.

It standeth upon the very point of the Gulph *Zuidersee*, that fronteth *Frisland*, from whence it is distant not above two Leagues. It's a good Town, and in it are many Ships Built.

Hoorn Described.

Hoorn stands upon the *Zuiderzee*. It's a fair, rich, and a reasonable great Town, and hath a good Haven, and is of so great strength, by reason of the multitude of Channels round

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about it, that it seems almost impregnable. In this Town there is kept yearly a Mart of Butter, and Cheese, whereunto there is brought so great a quantity, as furnishes, not only these Countries, but *Spain* and *Portugal* also.

Alcmair Described.

Alcmair is a very rich Town, by reason that the Country round about it yeelds more plenty of Butter and Cheese than any other place in *Holland*. It's not strong, save only by situation, lying (as do all other Towns in that Country of *Waterlant*) drowned amidst Water and Mud. It's within five hours journey of *Harlem*, and may be said to be the Gate whereby to enter by Land into *Waterlant*. For that side of the Province, being shut up on one part by the Sea, on an other by the Gulph of *Zuiderzee*, and almost all the rest by

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by other waters, and Channels; and making the shape of a *Peninsula*, it leaves but a very narrow space of entrance by Land; and there, a little within stands *Alcmair*.

Purmerenden Described.

Purmerenden is a Town with a good Castle appertaining to the Counts of *Egmont*.

Edan Described.

Edan stands neer to the *Zuiderzee*. It's famous for the great number of Ships of all burdens that are built in it, and the innumerable multitude of excellent good Cheeses that are made in the Country round about it.

Monickdam, and *Wesp*, are two good little Towns, with great store of good Meddows, and Pastures about them for feeding of Cattel, and like-

likewise they have a great deal of Fish.

Woerden hath a strong Castle in it.

Oudewater stands upon the *Iffel*. Neer hereabouts grows great plenty of Hemp, of the which almost all the Cables, Cords, and Nets that the Fisher-men, and Marriners of *Holland*, and *Zealand* use, are made, by which many of the Inhabitants grow very rich.

Schoonhoven stands upon the *Leek*. Its a fair Town, and hath a commodious Haven, and here so great abundance, and plenty of Salmonds are taken, that the Staple of Salmonds is kept here.

Ifelstein: about this Town is great controversie whether it belong to *Holland*, or to *Utrecht*.

Vianen stands upon the River *Leek*.

Leardam stands upon the River *Ling*.

Asperen

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Asperen stands also upon the River *Ling*, which runs through it with a pleasant murmuring noise.

Hueclelen stands likewise upon the River *Ling*, and hath an ancient Castle in it.

Gorichom stands upon the *Whaal* where it meets with the *Ling*. Its a good Town, and hath in it a strong Castle. From the Church steeple of this Town, you may see two and twenty walled Towns, and an infinite number of Villages, which is a most pleasant sight to behold. Every day there is a Market in this Town of Butter, Cheese, and other Victuals of an incredible quantity brought into this Haven, and from thence transported into other Countries, and places, which makes the Inhabitants here to become very rich.

Workum stands upon the *Whaal*.

Huesden hath a fair Castle, and many Villages are under its Jurisdiction.

Rotterdam stands upon the Channel of *Rotter*, neer to the *Meuse*. Its a strong, a fair, and a populous Town.

St Gertrudenberg is for situation very strong: It hath the *Meuse* on the one side with its Name turned into *Merwe*, and of such a breadth, that it being there ready to fall into the Ocean, the Channel thereof seems to be a Sea rather than a River. There falls also into the *Merwe* upon another side, another little River of but a short course, called *Donge*, and it ends its course neer unto the Walls of this Town; yet is the bed thereof also so broad and deep, as its capable of any Vessel whatsoever. The places thereabout are so low as men walk more upon the tops of Banks, than upon plain ground. The artificial Fortifications are answerable to the situation of it.

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Sevenbergen stands also upon the *Merwe* : Its a good Town.

Unwalled Towns in *Holland*, and yet enjoying the Priviledges of Walled Towns, are *Medemblick*, which stands upon the North Sea of *Holland*, and in the best Country of all *Holland* for feeding of Cattel. It hath in it a strong Castle.

Muyden, which stands by the Gulph *Zwiderzee*, upon the little River of *Weight*. Its a good Town, with a strong Castle on the contrary side of the River, and a Bridg to pass between the Castle and the Town.

Nieuport, Vlaerding, which stands neer to the Mouth of the *Mense*, a very ancient Town.

Principal Villages in Holland are

Hague : Or *Haghen* : or *Lettau* stands neer to the West Sea. It is the fairest, the richest, and the greatest Village of *Europe*, containing two thousand Houses, and among them, divers that are very sumptuous ones, especially the beautiful and large Royal Pallace, built like a Castle, and environed with strong and larg Ditches. In this Pallace is a Colledge of Cannons, with a very beautiful Chappel in it, and a gallant Library. They will by no means Wall this Village, accounting it more honour to inhabit the fairest, and mightiest Village of *Europe*, than a City, which being walled, would be inferiour to many.

At the *Hague* is a goodly Wood stored with all kind of Venison, and beautified with many Antiquities, and Medals graven in fine Marble, and

and worthy to be watered, nor cut River.

Halfe a Leag is the Abby of the Tomb of *M. Hennenberg*, with whereby it's sa forth as many then, as there year.

Schaghen is Northern part and large Vi Castle.

Iselmont sta *Merwe*. Its a fair Castle.

Eghemont Sea. Its a brav ly Monastery *Brederode* Noble Famil the Name.

and worthy to be remembred. Its not watered, nor cut through with any River.

Halfe a League from the *Hague* is the Abby of *Losdune*, in which is the Tomb of *Margaret* Countess of *Hennenberg*, with an *Epitaph* thereon, whereby it's said, that she brought forth as many Children at one burthen, as there are dayes in the year.

Schaghen is situate in the utmost Northern part of *Holland*. Its a fair, and large Village with a goodly Castle.

Iselmont stands upon the River of *Merwe*. Its a good Village with a fair Castle.

Eghemont stands neer to the West Sea. Its a brave Village with a goodly Monastery.

Brederode is a Castle whereof the Noble Family of *Brederode* beareth the Name.

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Walkenbourg is a small Burrough, where every *September* a notable Fair of Horses is kept.

Catwiik standeth on the Sea, where the ancient Mouth of the *Rhine* that came from *Utrecht* then fell into the Sea.

Britania is a Fort that was built by the Romans, since swallowed up by the Sea.

Petten stands in the utmost of the North part of *Holland*, upon the Downes.

The Isle that belongs to the Jurisdiction of Holland described.

In the Isle of *Voorn* is the *Briel*, which is a good and strong Town, and after it *Ulissinghen*.

In the Ile of *Voorn* is also the Town *Gerulit*, which hath divers Villages under its Jurisdiction. The Soil of this Iland is very fat, and fruitful, and bringeth forth abundance

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dance of divers sorts of Grain, as also of the Hearb called *Hellem*, like to *Broom*, the great Roots whereof are the principal strength of the Sea banks, and Dikes of *Holland* and *Zeland*, which otherwise, being but sandy, would easily be born away with the wind.

The second Isle is *Goeredede*. In it is a Town of the same Name, being fair, and great.

Somersdike is a third Island, called also *Voorn*, because it lyes directly against *Holland*. In it are divers Villages, but the chief is called *Somersdike*.

Gorendike the fourth, and *Pier-schelle* the fifth Isle. The Soil of both these is excellent good, and they have divers Villages in them.

This Country of *Holland* is exceeding populous: The People are tall, well proportioned, cheerful, and valiant, very courteous, and civil. Their Towns are well built, their Houses

Houses wonderfully well furnished, and their furniture exceeding fine, and neat above all the Countries in the World.

Their Shops, Buildings, Ships, Dikes, Rampars, Channels, divises to maintain their Banks, and to preserve their Meddowes, and Pastures, by passing the water from one Channel to another, and so into the Sea, and all other works that they take in Hand; are so excellently, and skilfully done, that its wonderful to behold them.

The Women in *Holland* are very fair, wise, painful, and so practiced in Worldly affairs, that they imploy themselves in most kind of mens exercises, especially in Merchandize.

By the Peoples industry in Merchandizing, breeding of sheep, and Cattel, Shipping, Fishing &c. this little Province is wonderful Rich; and there is no one foot of it, but yeilds some profit: Yea, the very
Downs,

Downs, being no Hills, breed great Conies: and they afford them great infinite number of sell into divers Countries and baked, fresh and to their great comfort.

To conclude great Wealth the Country by Chees, Fish, Fowl, Chick and Woolen Cloping, it may be all good this.

The Province of

Utrecht hath and South *Holland* *Guelderland*. It self of *Utrecht*, led Towns: *Utrecht*, *Rhenen*, fort: and un

Downs, being nothing but Sand-Hills, breed great abundance of Conies : and the very Sea-Rocks afford them great store of Eggs, and infinite number of Fowl, which they sell into divers Countries, both raw and baked, fresh and salt, which turns to their great commodity.

To conclude, considering the great Wealth that groweth in this Country by Cheese, Butter, Flesh, Fish, Fowl, Chickens, Eggs, Linnen, and Woolen Cloth, Turfe, and Shipping, it may be called a *Treasury of all good this*.

The Province of Utrecht Described.

Utrecht hath on the North, West, and South *Holland*, and on the East *Guelderland*. It contains the City itself of *Utrecht*, and four other Walled Towns : namely, *Wick* at *Duerstede*, *Rhenen*, *Amersfort*, and *Montfort* : and under the Jurisdiction thereof

thereof are about seventy Villages. The Country is dryer than *Holland*, and so very fruitful of Grain.

Utrecht stands upon the Ancient stream of the *Rhine*, which before it brake into the River *Leek*, had its course this way into the Sea. Its seated in a Country so miraculously well inhabited, that in one Day you may go from *Utrecht* to fifty Walled Towns, standing from thence in an equall distance. You may also go from *Utrecht* in a morning, and dine at whether you please of six and twenty walled Towns, and return again to Supper at *Utrecht* in your own House.

The Town is larg, mighty, and very stately, and sumptuously built, and full of goodly Cellars, and Caves, vaulted, with wonderful Art and skill. In it are many goodly Churches, whereof five are the Principal.

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The Province of

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Towns of the Jurisdiction of *Utrecht*, are

First, *Week at Duersteed*, which is a Town well built, standing upon the *Leek*, with a good Castle in it.

2. *Rhenen* stands also upon the *Leek*. About it is excellent good ground for Turfe.

3. *Amesfort* stands upon the little River of *Eem* : Its a fair Town, and well peopled.

4. *Montfort*, which stands upon the *Iffel* : Its a pleasant, and a strong place.

The Province of Zealand described.

Zeland is as much as to say, *A Land won out of the Sea*; under which Name are contained fifteen or sixteen Islands, which being united together, make one Body, and have the Title of a County.

Zeland is parted Southward from *Flanders* with the left Arm of the *Scheld*

Scheld, called *Hont* ; Eastward from *Brabant*, with the right Arm of the *Scheld*, which retaineth the ancient Name of *Scheld*; North, it is sever'd from *Holland* with a Goulph of the Sea called *Flack*: West it hath the Sea towards *England*.

The Principal Islands of *Zealand* are seven, which are (by an Arm of the *Scheld*) neer to the entrance thereof into the Sea) divided into the *Oriental*, and *Occidental*. The *Oriental* Isles are, *Schowme*, *Dueland*, and *Tolen*. The *Occidental* are, *Wal-karen*, *Zuidheveland*, *Northewland*, and *Wolfersdike*. Towards the Sea these Islands are defended with Hills of Sands, called the Downs, thrown up by the surges of the Sea.

Towards the South they are defended with Rampars, and Banks made, and with great pains and charge maintained by the People, being ten *Flemish* Ells high, and twenty five thick at the bottom.

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They are made of the hardest clay that can be gotten : within they are thick built with Wood, and Stone, and covered without with Mats strongly wrought.

Zealand is a very fruitful Country, and produces excellent pure and bright Corn; great quantities of *Coriander*, and Bay Trees that bring forth ripe Berries, which grow not in any Province of the *Low-Countries* besides: It produces also abundance of good Madder, and diverse other simples. As also of Turfe. It hath great abundance of excellent good Pasturage for the Cattel, and no less plenty of Fish.

In this Country are eight Walled Towns: namely, *Middlebourg*, *Sirixee*, *Cunfere*, *Uliffenghen*, *Tollai*, *St Martins-Dike*, *Romersvale*, and *Gofes*: There are diverse other smal places unwalled, and one hundred and two Villages.

The Isle of Schouwe described.

This Isle hath been much encroached upon by the Sea, yet its seven Leagues in Circuit. In it are these Towns: *Sirixzee*, the ancientst Town in all *Zealand*, their Traffique is Salt, and Mather, whereof there is great abundance in this Isle.

The Isle of *Duveland* hath its Name of the great abundance of Doves that breed therein. Its in Circuit four Leagues. In it are many Villages, and Gentlemens Farms.

In the Isle of *Tolen* is the Town of *Tolen*, which gives Name to the whole Isle; and *St. Martins Dike*, with divers small Villages.

The *Occidental* Isles are: *Walkeren*, which is ten Leagues in Circuit. Its a strong and fruitful Island, full of People, and of great wealth. In it are seven good Towns: as First, *Middlebourg*, so named, because it stands

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stands in the midst of the Isle. Its a very strong Town, well Fortified, Walled, and Diked. The Streets are large, the Houses, Churches, and Monasteries very fair Built. Its a great Town of Traffique of all kinds of Merchandize. It stands not upon the Sea, but upon two Channels, one whereof called the *New-Channel*, is as strait as a Line, and is made so wide and deep, that a Ship of a hundred Tun may come from the Port of *Rumue*, even up to the very Town of *Middlebourg*.

The second Walled Town is *Veere*, or *Canfer*, standing upon the North Coast. In it is a goodly Arsenal, wherein all furniture for Warre by Sea is used to be kept.

Ulusfenghen is the third Walled Town. Its the Key of the Sea of these *Low-Countries*, because all ships that go up to *Antwerp* must of necessity passe by this Town. The chiefe Villages of *Walkeren* are,

VWestcapelle, *Dombourg*, *Ramèkins*, where standeth the Fort of *Zeerbouurg* to secure the entrance into the River on that side. And *Ramue*, or *Ar-muyden*, which hath the goodliest Haven in all Christendom. *Sudbourg*: and divers other good Villages are in this Isle.

The next of these Isles is *Zuidbest-veland*, which is the greatest of all the Isles of *Zealand*. Much of it was swallowed up by the Sea, *Anno Christi* 1532. *Romerswald* is the principal Town in it, seated upon the East towards *Berghen*. *Goes*, or *Ter-goes* is an other Town that stands upon the North coast: Besides there are many good Villages in this Iland: with pleasant Woods, and Thickets, well stored with Fowl, and Wild Beasts, for Hauking and Hunting.

Northbeveland is almost wholly swallowed up by the Sea. *VVolferf-dike* is the least of all these Islands having only two Villages in it.

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Antwerp lyes the *Scheld*, and for a long space looks towards wards makes wards the other the Fields. T mastered by a that City be w ble River. It f ly in the num beautiful Bui dizing, which by the comm it being a Riv and depth, an so far into th capable of t Sail upon t

The City of Antwerp described.

Antwerp lyes on the right side of the *Scheld*, and extending its Walls for a long space on that side which looks towards the River, it afterwards makes a great compass towards the other which commands the Fields. That River cannot be mastered by a more Noble City, nor that City be watered by a more noble River. It flourisheth exceedingly in the number of Inhabitants, in beautiful Buildings, and in Merchandizing, which is chiefly occasioned by the commodiousness of the *Scheld*, it being a River of so great breadth and depth, and ebbing, and flowing so far into the Sea, as that it is there capable of the greatest Vessels which Sail upon the Sea.

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Towards the Field side, the City is environed with one of the state-lyest Walls that can be seen, as well for the breadth of the Platform within, as for the Noble Bastions without; and the Ditch is every where answerable. On the other side towards the River, the River it self serves for a defence, and therefore on that side, there is only a single Wall. The Platform of the Wall towards the Fields is of such a breadth as many Rows of Trees stand round about it, so as it serves no less for delight than for defence.

Antwerp is in, or rather joins upon *Brabant*, of it self making one of the seventeen ancient Provinces, by the name of *The Marquisat of the Sacred Empire*. The Province of *Flanders* joyns upon the contrary side of the River, which place partakes thereby of all the advantages afforded, both by so large a River, and of a City of such Merchandizing.

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The Citadel of *Antwerp* stands upon the Banks of the *Scheld*, upon the South side of the City. It is a *Pentagon*, composed of five Royal Bastions. Of all other modern Fortifications, it hath been esteemed so famous, as it hath served for a Pattern to almost as many Citadels as have been built in any Country since. Some of her Flanks lye towards the City, and the rest lean towards the *Champan*; respect being here had (as in all other Castles) to be able on one side to command the City, and on the other, to receive necessary succour upon all occasions from without. There lyes a good space of ground between the Citadel and the City.

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*The Noble Province of Flanders
Described.*

Flanders is now bounded on the North with the Sea, and the branch of the *Scheld* that is called *Hont*: South with *Artois*, *Hainault*, and *Vermandois*. East with the ancient *Scheld*, and part of *Haynault*: West partly with the Sea towards *England*, and partly with the River *Au*, and part of *Artois* that borders upon *Callice*, and *Boloign*. The length of it from *Antwerp* to the *New-Foss* is thirty three Leagues; The breadth from *Ninoven* to *Graveling* thirty Leagues.

The aire is very wholesome, especially Southward: The Country flat: The Soil fruitful, especially towards the Sea, and towards *France*. They breed great store of Cattel, especially of good Horses..

Flanders hath divers Rivers running through it: namely, *Scheld*, *Lis*,
and

and *Tender*, and
streams: the re
Channels made
in the Sea, It
Hills, especially
There are
Towns: The
Gant, *Bruges*,
are *Lisse*, *Dor*
Oudenard, *Alo*
ruliet, *Newport*,
ling, *Bourbour*
Uvern, *Arden*
St Winoc, *M*
Cassel, *Denise*
Towns un
populous, and
are *Ostend* (v
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smc, *Belle*,
Axsele, *M*
Blonchberg
Ghistell, *E*
Houfcot, *M*
ren, *Halle*

and Tender, and many other small streams: the rest is supplied with Channels made by hand to receive in the Sea, It hath many pleasant Hills, especially *Flanders Gallicant*.

There are in Flanders 28 Walled Towns: The three Capitall are *Gant, Bruges, and Ipre*: the others are *Lisle, Douay, Tournay, Courtray, Oudenard, Alost, Hulst, Termond, Bieruliet, Neuport, Scluse, Dunkirk, Grave-ling, Bourbourg, Damme, Dixmude, Uvern, Ardembourg, Ninove, Berg de St Winoc, Montgerard or Grammont, Cassel, Denise, Orchies, and Lanoy*.

Towns unwall'd, yet rich, fair, and popùlous, are about thirty, the chief are *Ostend* (now fortified with Rampars and Ditches) *Oudembourg, Mes-sinc, Belle, Poperinge, Toroue, Ostbour, Axsele, Middlebourg, Loo, Werwick, Blonchberg, Houck, Rosselar, Tielt, Ghistell, Eeclo, Lombartside, Steechem, Houscot, Munchereed, Mardike, Meerren, Hallewin, Wastene, Steegberg, Mer-gen,*

gen, Haesbrook, and *Armentiers*. Besides these there are one thousand one hundred fifty four Villages, many of them as great, rich, and populous as any in *Europe*. As also many Castles, Fortresses, and Noblemens, and Gentlemens Houses, very beautifull to behold. What great alterations the King of *France* hath made of late, I cannot give an account.

This country is divided into three parts, namely, *Flanders Flamigeant*, so called, because the *Flemish* Language is used in it: This is the chief part of the Country. The second is *Flanders Gallican*, so stiled, because the *Walloon* Language (which is a bastard *French*) is used therein. The third is *Flanders Imperial*, because it was long under the obedience of the Empire. The first lyes towards the Sea, the second towards the *Walloon* Countries.

Flanders

Flanders
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Gaunt, Bruges
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Flanders Flamingunt *described.*

Its bounded North with the Sea,
South with the River *Lie*, and *Flan-*
ders Gallican; East with the *Scheld*,
and the *Imperial Flanders*; West
with the *New Foss*, and with *Artoys*.
The Soil is all Sand, and naught for
Wheat, but produceth plenty of
Oats, Beans, Pease, Vetches, Flax,
Hemp, and very good Fruits of di-
vers sorts.

In this part of *Flanders* are the
three Capitall Towns, namely,
Gaunt, *Bruges*, and *Ipre*, and *Le Franc*,
which makes a fourth. In it also are
the four Parts of the Sea, with *Berg*
de St Winnoc, and many Towns wal-
led and unwalled.

The

The City of Gaunt described.

Gaunt stands about four Leagues from the Sea upon the Rivers, *Scheld*, *Lis*, *Lieve*, besides which, there are a number of Brooks and fine Fountains which come into the City, some by natural course, and some by Art, all which at their issue out of the Town, being received into great Ditches made by hand, pass into the Sea by a great Channel, carried by infinite pains, and charges for the space of four great Leagues into the Sea of *Zealand* neer to the *Gulph* called *Sass*. Not long since also they have opened a certain little Island, which before stopped the course of their Ships, so that a reasonable Boat may passe from the Sea to *Gaunt*, to the inestimable profit of Town and the Country thereabouts.

Gaunt is very strong both by Nature and Art, very beautiful, and one

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one of the greatest Cities in Christendom. The Walls within are seven miles in Circuit, and without more then ten miles, but it hath many wast places within it. There is a Citadel in it built by *Charles 5th* 1540. and the buildings in general are very stately and magnificent.

Within the Walls of *Gaunt* are fix and twenty Isles, made by the Rivers and Channels above mentioned; and there are ninety eight Great Bridges, and an infinite number of smaller, under which great Boats pass with Victuals, and Merchandize. There are six Principal Water Mills, and above one hundred Wind Mills, and of hand and Horse-mills an infinite number.

Churches great and small, Monasteries, and Hospitals &c. fifty five, as also many goodly Libraries, and its divided into seven Parishes. There are also divers Schools for the bringing up of poor Children at the

described.

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the Town charges. The Trade of Weavers is of the greatest estimation, by reason of the Linnen and Woollen Cloths, Serges, Tapestry, Fustians, Bucherams, Woisted, and such other stuff, made in this Town and Province.

The City of Bruges described.

Bruges is so called of the multitude of goodly Bridges about the Town, and stands in a pleasant Plain, three Leagues from the Sea. It hath no River but a Channel made by Art called the *Reye*, so large and deep that it seems to be a great River. It's divided into divers Branches, which being navigable, pass to many parts of the Town; and where they issue out, being all united together, they pass to *Dam*, and from thence to *Scluse*, where they discharge themselves into the Sea. But since by infinite charge, and marveilous industry

(79)
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Bruges is a rich
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dustry they have cut a larger and deeper Channell, by which a Ship of a Hundred Tun may passe from the Sea up to the very Town.

Bruges is a rich, fair, and a mighty Town: the Circuit of the Walls within is four *Italian* miles and a quarter. It's wonderfully peopled, and the buildings are passing sumptuous, the Streets large, and strait, and it hath in it many goodly places, especially the Market place, from the which the six principall Streets pass strait to the six Principall Gates, which is very pleasant to behold.

In *Bruges* are above 60 Churches, the chief whereof is *St. Donate*. The City is divided into sixty quarters, and into nine Parishes. There is a goodly place in the City called *the lodging of the Water*, wherein is a wonderful Engine turned by a Horse that draws up water, and disperfes it by Pipes all the Town over. Here
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are made much Fustian, Serges, Sayes, Buckrams, Woollen Cloth, Tapestry, and Silk, the Citizens are civil and courteous. The Women fair, gracious, and sober in their behaviour.

The City of Ipre described.

It takes its Name of the Brook *Hypre* which runs through the midst of the Town. Its strongly seated, and hardly can be besieged. Its much fortified by Art, and made almost impregnable. Its a fair and reasonable rich Town, and well built, though the houses are most of Timber. In it are such multitudes of Leaden Pipes to convey Water from the River and Channels into every private House, that its commonly said, That the Foundation of *Ipre* is all Lead. The Hall for the sale of Cloths is ancient and admirable. Here are made many Cloths, Serges,

(81)
Serges, Sayes, &c.
of Ipre is very good
over the Country
The Inhabitants
peaceable.

Scluse

Scluse is one
venerable in Europe, but
five hundred years old
strong being do
hath a strong Castle
the Town.

Scluse doth
upon the Sea-ford
but a little more
there runs a Channel
hand of it, where
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Serges, Sayes, &c. The Jurisdiction of *Ipre* is very great, and extends over the Country round about it. The Inhabitants are very Civil and peaceable.

Scluse described.

Scluse is one of the goodliest Havens in *Europe*, being able to contain five hundred Ships. The Town is strong being double, Ditched. It hath a strong Castle, but severd from the Town.

Scluse doth not lye altogether upon the Sea-side, as doth *Ostend*, but a little more within Land. Yet there runs a Channel on the right hand of it, whereinto the Sea enters, and is large enough to receive any Vessel whatsoever. On the other side thereof, some lesser Channels joyn with this greater, so as there is but little mannurable Earth, unless it be upon one side which is towards

G

Brug;

Brugus, an Island of about two Leagues about, lyes almost over against *Sluce*, between the bigger Channel, and some others on that part, all which fall into the Sea, and its called *Cassante*: And *Ostend* lyes upon the same Sea-coast upon the West, about five Leagues from *Sluce*: And *Flushing* lyes much upon the same distance towards the East.

Ostend described.

Ostend stands upon the Sea-shoar, in the midst of a Marish ground, and of divers Channels which come from the Continent: But chiefly its environed almost on all sides by two of the greatest of those Channels by which the Sea enters into the Land, and grows so high, when it is full Sea, as that you would rather think the Town was buried than situate in the Sea. Formerly it was an open Town, and was rather an habitation

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habitation for
Souldiers. But the
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habitation for Shepherds than for Souldiers. But the opportunity of the Seat being afterwards considered, the Houses were enclosed with a Platform instead of a Wall; and from time to time, the Line was so flankt round about, as it proved to be one of the strongest Towns in all *Flanders*. Its divided into two parts, called *The Old Town*, and *The new Town*. The former, which is the lesse, stands towards the Sea: The latter, and greater, lyes towards the Land. The old Town is fenced from the fury of the Sea by great Piles of Wood driven into the ground, and joyned together for the defence of that Part, and there the Waves sufficiently supply the office of a Ditch. The Channels may be said to do the like on the sides, especially at full Sea, when, of Channels, they become Havens, being then capable of any kind of Vessel; and by them, at all times, Barks of a middle size enter

into the Ditches, and by them into divers parts of the Town it self: The Town is but of a small compass, and is ennobled rather by its situations and fortifications, than by any splendor of the Inhabitants, or Buildings.

Nieuport described.

Nieuport is a good little Town with a Castle in it. The Haven is good and well frequented. A League and a half from the Town is the fair and famous Abby of *St. Bernard*, that hath an excellent Library of all sorts of Books belonging to it.

Dunkirk described.

Dunkirk hath a Haven that is reasonable good, and commodious. Besides the former Fortifications of this Town, our *English* lately, when they

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Berg St. W

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they had taken it , strengthened it very much, and since then the *French* King hath much enlarged and Fortified it.

Berg St. Winoc described.

This Town was so named from a goodly rich Abby, built upon an Hill, together with the Town, to the honour of St *Winoc* an *Englishman*, of a Holy Life. It hath a number of good Villages under it. The Country about it is very fruitfull. In this Town are made many Cloths, and an infinite number of Serges, the best and finest in all *Flanders*.

Damme describe.

Damme was sometimes an Haven Town, by reason that the Sea flowed to the Walls thereof, and thereby made it mighty and rich, but now its in a very poor estate. Here in

May is a great horse Fair kept.

Dixmund described.

Dixmund is a pretty fine little Town, in which every year in *July* is a Fair of Horses, and other Merchandize.

Wern is a good fair Town, and hath the Title of a Viscounty.

Bourbourg is a fine and a strong little Town appertaining to the Kings of *France*.

Graveling stands upon the River of *Aa* neer to the Sea : Since the recovery of *Calais* by the *French*, its made the strongest Fort of the *Low-Countries*, having five Bulwarks. It appertains to the King of *France*.

Cassel was sometime a mighty and a famous Town. Now its in a reasonable good estate, but its a very small Town.

Courtray stands upon the River *Lis*, which passeth through the midst of

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of it. Its one one of the ancientest Towns in *Flanders*: Its a good Town, and well built, and hath a strong Castle. Its so fortified that its made almost impregnable. In it are made great quantities of Woollen Cloth, and of very fine Linnen.

Oudenard is one of the best esteemed Towns in *Flanders*, both for its situation, Traffique, and people. It lyes upon the *Scheld*, almost in the midway, between *Turnay* and *Gaunt*. Its begirt with a good Wall, and the Wall with a large Ditch, within the Wall its furnished with good Platforms. It hath on one side an eminent rising ground which commands the Town. In it is made great store of Tapestry and Linnen.

Ardenbourg, formerly called *Redembourg*, was once a chiefe Town in *Flanders*. Its now a good little Town; their Church is one of the fairest in *Flanders*: These are all walled Towns.

The

The Unwalled Towns are

Midalebourg is environed with Trenches, Banks, and Rampars.

Comines stands upon the River *Lis*, where is a fair Castle, and a rare Library.

VVerwick also stands upon the River *Lis*, and hath a very fair Church in it. In this place, not many years since was born *Martin Chastelin*, who, notwithstanding he was born Blind, yet made all sorts of Tools and Instruments of Musick, and played well on them, and that without any Master, or Instructor.

Merim stands upon the River *Lis*. Its a good Town, well Ditched, with a Draw-bridg, and is made a very strong Fort. The other Towns have little observable in them, and I passe them over.

Flanders

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Flanders Gallicant *described.*

It hath on the North *Flanders Flamingant*: On the South the Country of *Cambresy*. On the East the *Scheld*; and on the West the River *Lis*, and the Earldom of *Artoys*. Its a small Country, but the Soil thereof is very fat and fruitful of all things, especially of Wheat. It produceth also Mather, and excellent good Oade. In it are great plenty of excellent Pastures for Cattel. In it are contained the fair Towns of *Leisle*, *Dovay*, and *Orchies*: The great Signiory of *Tournay*, and the Country of *Tournesy*, &c.

The Citie of Lisle described.

Its so called, because formerly the Country about it was nothing but Ponds, Pools, and Marishes, though now by Art, and industry, they are dried

dried up, and made firm Land. Round about the walls of the town, and of the Castle, passeth a small Brook, which, at the Village of *Du-ellesmont*, falls into the *Lis*. In it is a very strong Castle: Its a very good, and ancient Town, well built, and well inhabited by Gentlemen, and Merchants, and Curious Artificers. It hath under it a goodly Signiory, and is the cheife Town in this *Flanders*.

Dovay Described.

Dovay is the 2d Town of this Country: It standeth upon the River *Scarp*. Its a good, and a strong Town, having many Fountains, fair Buildings, and a great number of Churches. It hath Jurisdiction over a great Country, and is a place of great Traffique, and a University.

Orchies

Orchies

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Orchies *described.*

Orchies is a good and a pleasant Town, wherein are made many Ser-
ges, and such like Stuffs.

Lanoy is a strong place, where is
made much Linnen and Velvet.

Espency is a fair and a famous Vil-
lage, having the Title of a Principa-
lity.

Armentiers is so mighty and rich
a Village, and so well peopled, that
its priviledged as a Walled Town.

Between *Armentiers* and *steeg-
heers* is a fruitful and pleasant Coun-
try, called *La Love*, having in it four
great Villages, whereof the chief is
Leventis, being priviledged as a
Walled Town.

The

The City of Tournay described.

The City of *Tournay*, together with the Country of *Tournes*, hath a particular Government of its own. It lyes in the *Gallican Flanders*, and may be numbred among the Noblest Cities of all *Flanders*, as well for its ancient Foundation, as for being amply furnished, both with People, Traffique, and Buildings. It on all sides furrounded with fair and fruitful Fields, and through the midst of it (under divers Bridges) runs the *Scheld*, a River which begins here to ennoble it self; not being well Navigable before. The *English* in King *Henry* the eighth's time, while they held it, built a good Castle therein, which in that Age was esteemed strong; but not to be compared to the later Royal Fortifications. Its only flanked with Towers after the old fashion. On the

the lower side of the Ditch, which is wholly dry. Its and mighty Town beautifully built: Churches, and stately and Magnificent Mortaign stand *Tournes*, and *Scheld*. It was once but now is a Viscount.

St. Amond is of *Tournes*. standing upon and Ditches like of the chiefest

Flanders In

This Countie contained by *Scheld* and D the Frontire called the C

the lower side of the *Scheld* joyn^s the Ditch, which on the upper side is wholly dry. Its a fair, rich, great, and mighty Town. The Houses are beautifully built: The Monasteries, Churches, and Convents are very stately and Magnificent.

Mortaign stands in the Country of *Tournesis*, and upon the River of *Scheld*. It was once a strong Town, but now is a Village of small account.

St. Amond is also in the Country of *Tournesis*. Its a goodly Village standing upon the *Scarpe* with Gates and Ditches like a City. In it is one of the chiefest Abbyes in *Flanders*.

Flanders Imperial described.

This Country is very small, being contained between the Rivers of *Scheld* and *Dender*, all along upon the Frontires of *Brabant*. Its now called the *County of Alost*, of the Principal

Principal Town thereof.

Alost stands upon the *Dender*. Its a good, and a very strong Town, and hath yearly a great Fair of Hops.

To this County of *Alost* is also annexed the little Country of *Waes*, and divers Villages: As

Hulst, which is Walled. *Axele*, *Bouchout*, and *Assencde*, which four Towns have divers Villages under their Jurisdiction. Under it also are two Principalities, namely, *Steenhuysse*, which is a very good Village, and *Gaur*, with a strong Castle in it.

Tenremond stands upon the Mouth of the River *Denre*, where it entreth into the *Scheld*. Its a rich Town, and strong both by Nature and Art, and a place of great Trading.

Montgerhard, in French *Grandmont* stands upon the *Denre*. A pretty fine and pleasant Town.

Bornhem is a good Village with a strong Castle in it, and hath divers other subject to it.

Rupel-

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Aire, *Bapaume*

Rupelmond stands upon the Mouth of the River *Rupel*, where it entreth into the *Scheld*. The Soyl through all *Flanders Imperial* is excellent good and fruitful: Especially it produces much excellent good *Madder*.

The Province of Artoys described.

Artoys is bordered North with the River *Lis*, and the *New Channel* which seperates it from *Flanders*: South with *Dourlans*, which is the Frontire of *Picardy*: East with *Flanders Gallicant*, and the Country of *Cambresis*: West, towards *Monstru-eil* upon the Sea, it borders again upon *Picardy*. The Soyl is very fruitful, the air wholesome, the Country wants no commodity, but only Wine: It yeilds much Corne wherewith it furnisheth its Neighbours.

In *Artoys* are twelve Walled Towns, and eight hundred fifty four Villages, and many Abbies, Convents, and Monasteries. The chief Towns are, *Arras*, *St. Omers*, *Betune*, *Aire*, *Bapaumes*. The lesser are *Hedinsfort*,

dinsfort, Renty, St. Pol, Perue, Lillers, La Bassée, and Lens.

The City of Arras described.

Arras stands within a Bow shot of the *Scarpe*. Its a very great Town, but divided into two parts, each part having a several Wall; the one named *the City*, and appertains to the Bishop; the other *The Town*, and belongs to the Prince. The City is little, but faire, and very well Fortified. In it is the sumptuous Church of the Virgin *Mary*, in which is a rare Library. The Town is very large and wonderful strong, both by Nature and Art. The Streets are fair and broad, and the Market place scarcely to be matched. In the Town are many Cellars and Vaults, very artificially made, and paved, to withdraw their Families into, in case of a Siege. It hath a great Jurisdiction over many places about

about it; and
excellent Serge

St. Omer

It hath its name
who first built
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St. Omer is a
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River *Aa*. Its a
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Cattel to feed in
which are more
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Rushes that grow
way you will;
multitudes of

about it; and in it are made many excellent Serges.

St. Omer Described.

It hath its name of one *St. Omer*, who first built a Church of that Name, and stately Abbyes of great Revenues.

St. Omer is a Frontire Town against *France*, and stands upon the River *Aa*. Its a very strong Town, and well peopled, and hath a Country of very great importance under it, and Jurisdiction over many Villages. Neer unto it is a goodly Lake of fresh Water, in which are many little Islands (yet not so little but you may put a good number of Cattel to feed in many of them) the which are moveable, and may be drawn with a Cord, fastened to the Rushes that grow in them, which way you will; and under them are multitudes of Fishes, that defend

H them-

themselves there from all Weathers.

Betune described.

Betune is a good, and a strong Town, where is made great plenty of excellent good Cheese that is sold into divers Countries.

Aire described.

Aire stands upon the River *Lis*. Its a good, and a strong Town, with a Castle of great Antiquity. The houses in this Town are very well and orderly built.

Bapaulm described.

Bapaulm is a little, but a strong Town, because it cannot be besieged for want of fresh Water, which is not to be had within three Leagues thereof. It hath also a very strong Castle, and a large Country,

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Renty is but
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try, and a good Jurisdiction under it.

Renty is but a Castle with a good Village standing upon a little Brook; yet its a very strong place.

Hesdinfert is marvelously well seated upon the River *Canch*. Its one of the most strong, and defencible places in all the *Low-Countries*, and hath many large Priviledges; It's a fair Town, and well Peopled, and is now called *Hesdin*.

St. Pol hath of a long time been honoured with the Title of an Earldom, and hath a goodly Jurisdiction over a large Country, and a great Revenue.

Perue is under the Jurisdiction of *St. Pol*, and is a place of good importance.

Lilliers is a reasonable passable Town.

Lens is but a little Town, yet hath a large Territory, and Jurisdiction.

The Villages of *Artoys*, that be of any importance, having the Priviledges of Markets, and Fairs, are *Avennes le Comte*, *Aschicourt*, *St Venant*, *Courriers*, *Blangis*, *Ligny*, and *Pas*.

The City of Cambray described.

Cambray stands upon the *Scheld* which runs through the midst of it. Its seated upon the edg of the Frontiers made by the two Provinces of *Henault* and *Artoys*, on *Flanders* side, towards *France*, opposite to *Piccardy*. It enjoys a free Government under the Spiritual and Temporal Dominion of its Arch-Bishoprick. It is endowed with very large Priviledges: Full of Noble Churches, whereof the Cathedral is such as hath not the like in any of the neighbouring Cities. Its sufficiently provided also of other Edifices both for use and Ornament. Yet the Inhabitants

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tants are not answerable in number to the Houses ; many of which being Ecclesiasticks, Forraign Commerce and Merchandizing doth rather languish than flourish there : Neither doth the *Scheld* yeild commodity for it. For the River hath its Head but a little above the City, and therefore is hardly Navigable hereabout.

The City of *Cambray* is about a League in Compass, and is environed with an Ancient Wall, flankt for the most part after the ancient Mode, but with many Bulwarks also, after the Modern Way of Fortification. It hath a Ditch which is very broad and deep on one side, where into (for the most part) the *Scheld* runs : The rest by reason of its height, is dry, but so much the deeper. On the East stands a Citadel with four Royal Bulworks, having a great half-Moon between two of them which are next to the Fields,

and divers other defences, for the Custody of the Ditch. Here is made much fine Linnen called *Cambrick*.

Cambray hath under it a goodly Signiory and Jurisdiction, called *Cambresis*, in which are divers Villages, and places of importance, and among others, the Castle of *Cambresy*, six Leagues from the City, in which the Peace between the chief Princes of Christendom was concluded, *Anno Christi* 1559.

*The Province of Haynault
Described.*

Haynault is so named of the River *Hayne* which runs through it. Its bordered North with *Brabant*, and *Flanders*; South with *Champaign* and *Picardy*; East with the County of *Namur*, and part of the County of *Lieg*, West with the *Scheld*, and part of *Flanders Gallicane*. Its twenty Leagues long, and sixteen Broad:
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The Aire is wholsome, and the Soyl excellent good by reason that the Country is watered with many Rivers, namely, the *Scheld*, the *Sambre*, the *Tender*, and many other small Rivulets. There are also in it many Lakes, Marishes, Ponds, Pools, Fountains, goodly Woods, and pleasant Forrests.

Haynault aboundeth with fragrant and fair Pastures, and Meddows for all kinds of Cattel; with good fruits, and profitable Trees, especially with great plenty of good Corn. In divers parts of it are Iron Mines, Lead, and quarries of Stone for all kinds of Building: yea, of the Touch-stone. There is also great store of excellent white Lime and Sea-Cole.

In *Haynault* there are twenty four Walled towns, namely, *Montz*, *Valenciennes*, *Bouchain*, *Quesnoy*, *Conat*, *Landresy*, *Anesnes*, *Chimay*, *Mariembourg*, *Phillips Ville*, *Beamount*, *Mauberg*, *Bovais*, *Bins*, *Reux*, *Segny*, *Brain le*

Comte, Eughien, Halle, Lefsmé, Cheure, Ath, St Guislaine, and Leuze. There are also in it nine hundred and fifty Villages, with many Castles and Signiories: Many of these Villages are great, and fair, and have Titles of Honour annexed unto them, as *Pequicourt, Fontayn, Laling, Montigny, Antonig, Barlamon, Barbanfon, Aimeries,* and many others.

The City of Montz described.

The City of *Mons* receives its Name from its situation, which in their Language signifies a *Mountain* or *Hill*. But the rise of the Earth there is so gentle, as it cannot be said to be Mountainous. Its a very Noble City, as well for the concourse of People, as for Commerce. It hath many good Houses in it, and there the King of *Spains* Counsel used to sit, which administred justice to all the Country. All which Prerogatives

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tives gave it the precedency over all other Cities in the Province of *Henault*. It commands large and spacious Fields round about it, which may be questioned, whether they abound more in Pasture or in Tillage: Nor is the Territory there of less rich in Woods, nor generally indeed all the rest of that Province of *Henault*. This City is stronger by its natural situation than by manual industry. It is cut through on the lower side by a little Rivolet called *Trulla*, which as soon as it goes out of it, falls into another, somewhat bigger called *Hain*, which crossing through the Province before it be gotten quite out, falls likewise into the *Scheld*. This Province of *Henault* looks towards the South of *Campania* and *Picardy* in *France*.

Mons (saith another) is a Noble City for situation, Inhabitants, and Buildings. Its a very strong Town both by Nature and Art, and may be environed

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ns receives its tion, which in fies a Mountain e of the Earth cannot be said ts a very No- the concourse merce. It hath n it, and there Counsel used to ed justice to all which Preroga- tives

environed with Water at pleasure. The City Wall is very strong, and besides its fortified with three large an deep Ditches, and with an ancient Castle. The Town is great and fair, and beautified with sumptuous Buildings, both publick, and private, with very clear Fountains, and with Rich Citizens, and Artists.

The City of Valenciennes described.

Valenciennes stands upon the *Scheld*, and the little River *Rovelle*, the which, besides that they make many goodly, and strong Isles in the City, pass almost under every particular mans House, to the great beauty and commodity of the place. The seat of this Town is so strong (besides the Fortifications made by Art) that it may at pleasure be drowned upon one side with water, and its so defended by Hills on the other side, that it can hardly be besieged

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Its a very goodly, large, and beautiful City, as well for private, as for publike Buildings, namely, Churches, Monasteries, &c. Especially our *Lady Church* is very fair, being built after the ancient Mode, with three Vaults, sumptuous Arches, and goodly Pillars of Marble, and Porphyrie. *St. John's Church* also is a stately building; but the Town House, called *La Hall*, is the stateliest of all the rest, being built all of square Stone curiously wrought, and of such greatness and magnitude, that it alone were a sufficient Ornament to the whole City.

On the left side of this *Hall* there is an excellent Building of a great heighth, in which is a Clock and a Dial, shewing not only the Hours
of

of the day and night, but also the course of the Moon, and of all the Planets, and likewise of the Months, and divers other things. Under this Clock-House, and so under Covert, is the Corn-Market, being great and large; and above in the Hall is a place to sell Wool and Cloth: There are also in it Fencing Schools, and places for all Publick Courts, Magistrates, and Officers of the Town: A Gaol, or common Prison: So that in this one Building is compact together all Offices, serving for the commodity and glory of the Town.

In this City also are divers Monasteries, Hospitals, and other Religious places endowed with good Revenues. There is also in it a fair Colledg, and many Schools, for the Education of Orphans, and poor Children, wherein they are taught divers Arts and Occupations. And in it are Cloths, Woosted, Linnen, as fine as *Cambrick*, changeable Taffaties,

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faties, and almost all sorts of Mercery Wares, &c. It hath a great Jurisdiction, and enjoyes great Priviledges, and Franchises, more than any other Town of the *Low-Countries*. Its very well peopled. Its the most Merchantlike Town in all these parts.

Bouchain stands upon the River *Scheld*. The Town is Strong, and the Castle is counted impregnable. Its the Principal County of *Osternand*.

Quesnoy is a strong Town in, which are made Woosteds, and great store of Linnen, by which means there is great Traffique in this Town.

Conde also stands upon the *Scheld*. Its a good little Town.

Landrecy stands upon the River *Sambre*: The Town is little, but very strong.

Avesnes stands upon the River *Hypre*. Its a good and a strong Town.

Chimay stands in a Forrest upon the little River *Blanche*. Its well built

built, with a fair Pallace for the Prince, a goodly garden, and a *Labyrinth*.

Mariembourg stands between the Rivers *Blanch* and *Noire*. It's a very strong Town having four great Bulwarks.

Philipvill is so fortified, that it's held to be impregnable.

Beaumont is a fine little Town standing upon the knapp of a goodly Hill, whereof it beareth the Name.

Maubeug stands upon the River *Sambre* which passeth through it. It's a good Town of Merchandize.

Bavays Vallone is a very small Town.

Bins, or *Binch* stands upon a branch of the River *Hayn*, and is a good and pleasant Town.

Reux is a little Town, but stands very pleasantly in a fruitful Soyle, and hath many Villages under its Jurisdiction.

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Soigny stands upon the little River *Sein*.

Breine le Comte is a very ancient Town.

Engbien is a good little Town wherein great store of Tapestry of all sorts of prizes is made.

Halle stands upon the River *Sein* which runs through it.

Lefsnny: Through it passing the *Denre*; and here great store of Linnen Cloth is made.

Cheure stands upon the Little River *Hunell*: It's a pleasant little Town.

Ath hath the *Denre* running through it. It's a little, but a fair, pleasant, and rich Town, because great plenty of Linnen is made in it.

St. Guislem taketh its Name from the Abby that stands in it, which is the chiefest Abby in all *Haynault*.

Leuse is a good Town.

Among the Villages in *Haynault*, many of them have strong Castles in them, and though unwalled, enjoy the

the Priviledges of Walled Towns. There is nothing else memorable in them.

*The Province of Luxembourg
Described.*

Luxembourg is a Dutchy. It beareth the Name from the principal Town thereof. Its bounded North with the Countries of *Lieg*, and *Namur*: South with *Lorrain*: East with the River *Moselle*, and the Bishoprick of *Trevir*: And West with part of the *Forrest* of *Ardenne*.

Its replenished with Mountains, and Forrests, and containeth the greatest part of the *Forrest* of *Ardenne*: Its divided into two Parts; the one called *Famenne*, which is fruitful of Corn, and many other good things, and hath some Mines, and divers sorts of good Stone, of some of which, excellent good Lime is made. It yeilds also some Wine. The other

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other part is called *Ardenne*, which is barren, and produces little Corn; but hath store of Red and Fallow Deer, Goats, Hares, Conies, and exceeding great plenty of Fowle: As also wild Hens of two Sorts, one as large as *Turky-Cocks*, called *Limoges*, the other as big as our common Hens, called *Bruiers*. Many Rivers run through this Country, especially the *Moselle*.

Luxembourg contains in circuit about seventy Leagues, and in it are twenty Walled Towns: namely, *Luxembourg*, *Arlon*, *Rodemark*, *Theonvil*, *Gravemakre*, *Coningmakre*, *Dickrich*, *Vireton*, *Estewerck*, *Vandalen*, *Bastona*, *Mommedi*, *Neuschasteau*, *Danvillers*, *Marvil*, *La Roch en Ardenenne*, *Durby*, *St. Vite*, *Marche* and *Salme*. Divers Castles there are in this Country very ancient and Noble, like to little Towns. There are likewise in this Dutchy one thousand

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one hundred sixty nine Villages, divers of which are fair, and great, as *La Rochotte, Avio, and St. Hubert.*

The City of Luxembourg Described.

Luxembourg hath the River *Elze* passing through it. Its large, and a very strongly seated City, yet but reasonably built, having been often destroyed by the Warrs.

Arlon hath suffered much by the Warrs.

Rodemack is a good little Town with a strong Castle.

Theonville stands upon the *Moselle*, having a goodly Bridg over the River. Its a marvelous strong Town.

Gravemackren, and Coninkmackren stand both upon the *Moselle*.

Bastonack is a good little Town, and is commonly called *Paris en Ardenne.*

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Mommedi stands upon an high Hill, at the foot whereof runs the River *Cluirs*. Its a strong Town.

Neuscastle is also a strong Town.

Danvilliers, is a fair and a strong Town.

Marvil stands upon the *Chiers*.

St Vite is a little, but a very pleasant and fine Town.

Salme is a good and a rich Town.

Ivoy, *Chimy*, and some other Towns have been so often destroyed in the Warrs between *France* and *Spain* that there is nothing remarkable in them.

No Province in all the *Low-Countries*, is so replenished with Nobility as this Dutchy of *Luxembourg*, who govern their Subjects and Tenants like to the Peasants of *France*, or rather like Slaves, contrary to the liberty of the rest of the Provinces of the *Low-Countries*. Here they hate Laws and Lawyers, and end

their controversies among themselves without any Process.

*The Province of Namur
Described.*

Namur is bounden with *Brabant*, *Haynault*, *Luxembourg*, and *Lieg*. Its a small Country, and yet abounds with Riches, and many good things. Its stored with People, and those very industrious, and faithful to their Prince. The Nobles are valiant and well used in Military Discipline. The air is very wholesome, the Country is well watred with many Rivers and Brooks, especially the *Meuse*, and the *Samore*, which besides the benefit of Portage, furnisheth the Country with abundance of Fish.

Its well replenished with Woods, and Forrests, the greatest whereof is called *Marlaign*, which abounds with

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with all sorts of Veniſon, and Fowl. The Valleys produce abundance of Corn and Grain: The Hills are full of goodly Woods, excellent cleer Fountains, rich Mines of Iron, and ſome of Lead, Quarries of fine Stone for Building, as Marble of all ſorts and Colours, Black, White, Tawny, and *Porphyry*, or *Jasper*, which is red ſtreaked with White, Blew Marble, but mingled with White, which perfects the beauty of it. Beſides divers other ſorts of fine Stone. They have alſo excellent Lime, and Sea-coal: Much Salt-peter is alſo made in this Country. But eſpecially the Forges of Iron are ſo many that the whole Country ſeems to be *Vulcans* Forge.

In the Country of *Namur* are four Walled Towns; Namely, *Namur*, which gives name to the whole Country, *Bovines*, *Charlemont*, and *Valencourt*. And there are be-

side in it one hundred eighty two Villages, and many fair and Rich Abbeys.

The City of Namur described.

It stands between two Hills, upon the River *Meuse*, and through it passeth the *Sambre*, which there falleth into the *Meuse*. Its a fair and a rich Town with a strong Castle in it.

Bovines stands upon the *Meuse*, and is a reasonable good Town.

Charlemont is a Town wonderful strong, and of exquisite fortifications, though but small.

Valencourt stands in a very fruitful Country, and is a good little Town.

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*The Principal Villages in this
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Dave, which is a goodly Village,
with a strong Castle standing upon
the *Meuse*. It hath also a great jurif-
diction, and is honoured with the
Title of a Vicounty.

Other Villages of note are *Floren*,
Vascy, and *Sanson*.

These are all the *Low-Country*
Provinces: Yet because the Bishop-
rick of *Lieg*, and the Town of
Aquisgrane, are Neighbours, Friends,
and in League with them, take this
brief Description of them.

The Bishoprick of Liege described.

This Country North and West is bordered with *Brabant*: East with the *Meuse* and *Namur*, and South with *Luxembourg*. The air is very wholsom, the Country pleasant, and abounding with all kind of Grain, and Fruits. As for Flesh, Fish, Venison, and Fowl of all sorts, there is great abundance, and of tast excellent good.

Mines there are also of Iron, and some of Lead, and veins of Brimstone, and a few of Gold that is very fine. Quarries there are also of Stone excellent good, as of Alabaster mingled with black; Marble of all sorts, as in *Namur*; great plenty of Pit-Cole, digged so deep, that sometimes they go under the very Channel of the *Meuse*. The Cole of this Country is much sweeter, and casteth

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steth a far greater heat than that of *Haynault*, or *Namur*. The Turfe also far surpasseth that of *Holland* and *Brabant*, for which cause the *Ligeoys*, boast, that they have in their Country three things passing all other Countries, namely, Bread better than Bread, Iron harder than Iron, and Fire hotter than Fire. This Cole is kindled with Water, and quenched with Oile.

In this Country also is made great abundance of Salt-Peter. In brief, this Country is so pleasantly seated, the Aire so wholesome, the Soyl so fruitful of all things serving for the use and delight of Man, to which adde the great freedom which the People live in there, that it is not unfitly called, *The Paradise of Priests*.

Under this Bishoprick of *Lieg* is contained a very large Jurisdiction, of Towns, Castles, Bourgs, and Villages,

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lages, namely, the Dutchy of *Buillon*, the Marquisat of *Francymont*: The County of *Lotz* and *Hasbain*: Two and fifty Baronies, and many rich Abbeyes.

There are under its Jurisdiction (besides the half of *Mastrieke*) twenty four walled Towns, namely, *Legi*, *Buillon*, *Francimont*, *Lotz*, *Borkworm*, *Tongres*, *Hoey*, *Affelt*, *Dinant*, *Masiek*, *Stochem*, *Bilson*, *St. Truiden*, *Tuin*, *Viset*, *Varem*, *Beringh*, *Herke*, *Bree*, *Per*, *Hamont*, *Siney*, *Eofs*, and *Covines*, besides one thousand and eight hundred Parishes with Churches; besides Hamlets, Castles, and Baronies of Noble men.

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The City of Liege described.

Liege standeth in a Pleasant Valley upon the River *Menſe*, being environed with Hills on all ſides. The *Menſe* entreth into it with two Branches, and maketh many pleaſant Iſles within the Town. The Rivers that paſs through this City are; Firſt, the *Menſe*, then the little River *Lieg*, and laſtly three little Brooks, *Ute*, *Veſe*, and *Ambluar*, all three being ſtored with excellent good Fiſh, eſpecially *Ute* hath one ſort of excellent delicate Fiſh above all the reſt called *U-tins*.

There are alſo within this City many clear Springs and Fountains, and that in ſuch abundance, that ſome Houſes have two or three of them. It's a very great and a large City,

The

City, containing many Hills, Vallies, Rivers, and Vine grounds, being about four *Italian* Miles in Circuit. The buildings are very Fair, being all of Stone; And above all, the Bishops Pallace is most stately and Magnificent.

But in number of Churches, and beauty and riches of them, in Monasteries and Convents, this Town passeth all the Towns in *Lower Germany*, yea, of *France* also. For there are in it eight Collegiate Churches, with Canons, who are very Rich, especially the Canon of *St. Lambert*, the Patron of the Town.

In this City of *St. Lambert*, among divers old Rich Jewels and Reliques, is a great Image of *St. Georg* on Horsback, all of pure Gold, which *Chartes* Duke of *Burgundy* gave, to make amends for his hard usage

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There are also in it four Rich Abbeyes, having in each of them a goodly Library. There are also three Nunneries, and all the Four Orders of Friars, some of which have two Convents. There are also thirty two Parish Churches; and so many other Churches, Monasteries, and Hospitals, within and without the Town, that the Churches are accounted in all above a Hundred. This City is well replenished with People, many of which live very idely, their Language is *French*. Its an Imperial City, but they are only bound to furnish the Emperor with a few men in his Warre against the *Turks*.

Hubert Thomas writeth, that at one time there were students in this City, nine Kings Children, the

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twenty four Dukes Children, twenty nine Earls Children, besides a number of Barons, and Gentlemens Children, the greatest part of which were Canons of the Rich Colledge of St. *Lambert* aforementioned.

Buillon is a great Castle, standing very artificially upon the Point of a Hill, with a great Bourg under it. The Castle is large, and well Fortified, and very strong both by Art and Nature. It hath the Title of a Dutchy, and hath under it a great Country, and a large Jurisdiction.

Francimont was sometimes a Walled Town; it is now but a Village, yet hath it a strong Fort in it. Neer to this place is a Village called *Thou*, where are many good Lead Mines, and Quarries of excellent black Marble.

Lootz,

Lootz, or try with a la riddion un the Town.

Brockworth her. Its a peopled.

Tongres stand which at *Meuse*. Here formerly all Stone, raised up between two ched from *To* is above two some parts wh Day. Certain Work of the employed the jects in such keep them from the Mother of Warres.

Lootz, or *Borchloon* is a Country with a large Territory, and Jurisdiction under it. Its a pretty little Town.

Brockworm stands upon the *Jecker*. Its a pretty Town and well peopled.

Tongres stands also upon the *Jecker*, which at *Mastrick* entreth into the *Mense*. Here is a marvelous way formerly all paved with goodly Stone, raised up of wondrous height between two Walls, which reached from *Tongres* to *Paris*, which is above two hundred *Italian* Miles, some parts whereof remain unto this Day. Certainly it was an ancient Work of the *Romans*, who usually employed their Armies and Subjects in such stupendious works, to keep them from idleness, which is the Mother of Sedition and Civil-Warres.

Eight

Eight Leagues from *Toneres*, and five from *Lieg*, is the Village of *Spa*, or *Span*, within half a League whereof is the Fountain, so famous for the virtue that it hath to cure the Tertian Ague, the Dropsie, the Stone, the exulceration of the Lungs, the Sciaticque, and all diseases of the Stomack, and the Liver. This Village of *Span* stands in a fair Wood, which is part of the Forrest of *Ardenne*, and the Fountain most commended is called *La Fountain de Savenier*, the water whereof tasteth of Iron, there being many Iron Mines thereabout. The Water is of most virtue in July, when the Weather is hottest.

Hoey was sometimes a famous City, bearing the Name of a furious River that here falls into the *Meuse*. The *Meuse* runs through the midst of this Town, over which is built a very stately Bridg. Its now

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a reasonable good Town, with a strong Fortrefs in it. The Country about it abounds with Iron Mines and Cattel.

Hasselt stands upon the River *Demere*. Its an indifferent good Town and well Built.

Dinan stands upon the *Menſe*, and is seated in a very good Country abounding with Black Marble, with Mines of Iron, and Quarries of other very good Stones to build with. It hath a Castle in it.

Maiſeek is a reasonable good Town, standing upon the *Menſe*.

Stockhem is a fine little Town, standing also upon the *Menſe*. *Bilſen* is but a little Town.

St. Truden, or *Centron* is a fair Town, and their Language is *Flemish*.

Tuin, or *Tovin* stands in *Haynault*, but is ſubject to the Biſhop of *Lieg*. Its an indifferent good Town.

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The other Towns are Reasonable good, and of some account. As for the Villages there is not much remarkable in them, and therefore I pass them over.

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An account of the great difference that is between the Country and People of Lieg, and the Country and Citizens of Aix, though they be but six Leagues asunder, and both in the same Climate.

Lieg is in subjection, Aix in liberty, but both under the protection of the Empire. At Lieg they speak French, at Aix Dutch. The Liegeois are pleasant, and sociable: They of Aix unsociable, and Melancholly. Yea, the very Air and Soyl retain the same difference: For its Summer at Lieg when its Winter at Aix: Yea, oft its Snow and Ice at Aix, when its warm at Liege.

*The City of Aix, or Aquisgrane
described.*

Aix is situated between the Dut-
chy of *Brabant*, *Limbourg*, *Juliers*,
and the Bishoprick of *Liege*. *Charle-*
Main was the Founder of this City,
who ordained it to be the chiefe
City of the Empire, and that the
King of the *Romans* should receive
the Iron Crown at *Aix* by the
Arch-Bishop of *Colen*, who is the
Metropolitan thereof; The Silver
Crown at *Millan*, and the Imperial
Crown of Gold at *Rome*. Here he
dyed, and was buried *Anno Christi*
813.

Aix is a goodly City, and the
Country about it is very pleasant
and fruitful, but the Buildings of the
Town do not answer the fame of
the Place, saving the hot Baths,
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which are very fairly built, and are very wholesome for many Diseases.

Aix is an Imperial City, but payeth only a small Tribute to the Emperour; otherwise it enjoys freedom, and hath the Duke of *Cleves* for Protector, next Neighbour and perpetual Confederate.

FINIS.

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